RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 24th November, 1997/3 Agrahayana, 1919 (Saka)

The House met at Eleven of the Clock; Mr. Chairman in the Chair

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया (बिहार): सभापति महोदय, हमने एक सवाल उठाया है कि जब तक डी.एम.के. मंत्री इस सरकार में रहते हैं तब तक इस सरकार का कोई काम इस सदन में नहीं चल सकता है। सभापति महोदय **...(व्यवधान)...** जब तक ये **...(व्यवधान)...** रहते हैं कांग्रेस इस सरकार का कोई भी काम चलने नहीं दे सकती है **...(व्यवधान)...** सभापति महोदय, **...(व्यवधान)...** यह डी.एस.के. के लोग **...(व्यवधान)...**

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu): The House should not take up any business until the Ministers belonging to D.M.K. arc expelled from the Government. *...(interruptions)...*

सैयद सिब्ते रजी (उत्तर प्रदेश): शुक्रवार को हमने आपके सामने **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री एम.एस. अहुलुवालिया: डी.एम.के. को दूहर करो **...(व्यवधान)...** डी.एम.के. को दूर करो। **...(व्यवधान)...**

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Rice Rotting in FCI Godowns

*61 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice worth crores of rupees has been rotting in the FCI godowns;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity and value of rice that has been lying in the FCI godowns undistributed;

(c) the reasons for the stock of rice remaining undisbursed and the quantity of rice which is considered to be unfit for consumption due to its long storage in the godowns; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to plug the loopholes in the procurement and disbursement of foodgrains by the FCI to avoid huge wastages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH):
(a) and (b) The total quantity of rice available with FCI as on 1.10.1997 is around 70 lakh tonnes most of which has to be kept by FCI as per buffer stocking norms fixed by Government of India. They arc valued at about Rs. 4900 crores. A quantity of 0.4i lakh tonnes is found unfit for human consumption as on 1.10.1997, and the maximum loss at current rates, on this account, would be around Rs. 29 crores.

(c) Since the entire stock of foodgrains are not issued immediately after procurement, and some quantity is also kept as buffer stock, the stocks are stored by FCI for issue in subsequent months. Rice does not become unfit for human consumption due to long storage only. A quantity of 0.41 lakh MTs of rice is unfit for human consumption as on 1.10.1997 on account of multiple handling, blocking of stocks due to litigation, unavoidable exposure to elements and collection from wagon sweepings, as also from cut and torn bags and godown sweepings.

(d) Foodgrains arc purchased by the Food Corporation of India under price support operations, strictly conforming to notified specifications [Fair Average Quality (FAQ)]. Guidelines arc in place for scientific storage of food stocks. Instructions arc issued to FCI to follow First In and First Out (FIFO) principle in issue of foodgrains. FCI has been directed to ensure strict comliancc of the instructions issued for scientific storage through regular inspections of godowns, and regular visits of the godowns by the officer responsible for storage and monitoring/reporting of the results of these visits, and by ensuring the observance of FIFO principle.